

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown on the attached list of complete claims.

**In the claims:**

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A device for dispensing a preselected plurality of pet treats at a corresponding predetermined plurality of dispensing times during a predetermined time period, comprising:

a container for holding a plurality of pet treats;  
a time-controlled dispenser for dispensing said predetermined plurality of pet treats;

said time-controlled dispenser including a microprocessor and an input device;

said input device arranged to allow a user to enter said predetermined time period into said microprocessor;

said microprocessor including a program for causing said time-controlled dispenser to dispense said predetermined plurality of pet treats at said respective predetermined plurality of dispensing times[[]], said program determining in a pseudo-random manner said predetermined plurality of dispensing times, said predetermined time period being divided into equal intervals, where the number of said equal intervals is equal to said predetermined plurality of dispensing times, and wherein a pet treat will be dispensed in a majority of, but not all of said equal intervals; and

~~said predetermined plurality of dispensing times occurring pseudo randomly and being sufficiently spaced so that when said predetermined time period is divided into equal intervals, where the number of said equal intervals is equal to said predetermined plurality of dispensing times, a pet treat will be dispensed in a majority of said equal intervals; and~~

whereby said treats will be dispensed pseudo-randomly but not too closely in time so as to maintain a pet's interest over said predetermined time period.

22. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21 wherein said pet treats are pet comestibles.

23. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21 wherein said pet treats are pet toys.

24. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23 wherein said pet toys each contain a pet comestible.

25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21 wherein said time-controlled dispenser dispenses a plurality of said pet treats at any one of said dispensing times.

26. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, said time-controlled dispenser further includes a device for generating an audio signal prior to the dispensing of at least one of said pet treats.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of dispensing a preselected plurality of pet treats from a container including a microprocessor provided with a program, and an input device ~~at~~ allowing a user to enter a predetermined plurality of dispensing times during a predetermined time period, comprising the steps of:

signaling, through use of said input device, the microprocessor utilizing the program to calculate a schedule to dispense said pet treats;

calculating, through the use of said program provided within microprocessor, said schedule to dispense said pet treats during said predetermined time period at a predetermined plurality of dispensing times which are pseudo-random and sufficiently spaced so that when said predetermined time period is divided into equal intervals, ~~where~~ wherein the number of said equal intervals is equal to said predetermined plurality of

dispensing times, a pet treat will be dispensed in a majority, but not all of said respective equal intervals; and

dispensing said pet treats according to said schedule.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein said pet treats are pet comestibles.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein said pet treats are pet toys.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein said pet toys each contain a pet comestible.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein a plurality of said pet treats are dispensed in rapid succession.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further including the step of producing a audio signal prior to the dispensing of at least one of said pet treats.